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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

8. The Prevailing Christ

This chapter argues that Jesus has always been an Intercessor — before His birth, during His life on earth, and now from heaven's throne. It traces His prevailing prayer across all three phases and insists He is still actively pleading for us today, not passively reigning.

Key takeaways

- As the preincarnate Christ, Jesus accompanied and interceded for Israel throughout their history, sharing their sorrows.
- On earth Jesus prevailed in prayer far more than the disciples realized — rising early, praying all night, and agonizing in Gethsemane. His major decisions and victories were all won in prayer.
- Jesus ministered chiefly as the Son of Man, depending on the Holy Spirit through prayer just as we must, not primarily by His deity.
- The Bible's chief emphasis about Jesus today is that He is Priest forever — He 'always lives to intercede' for us (Heb. 7:24-25).

- His intercession is real and full of feeling, not merely symbolic. He sympathizes and suffers with our pain; we pray only because He first prays.
- After the cross came four steps of exaltation: proclaiming triumph to the spirits, resurrection, ascension, and enthronement at the Father's right hand.
- You intercede because He intercedes — He will not stop pleading until sin's warfare is over and the last lost sheep is home.

Passages worth keeping

“Every act of grace in Christ has been preceded by, and owes its power to intercession.”

Andrew Murray — sums up the chapter's claim that intercession underlies everything Christ does.

“Today He rules by His uplifted and extended hand — by prayer.”

Frames Christ's present reign as a reign of intercession, not yet of the rod.

How it connects

The chapter ties Jesus' present ministry to His earthly prayer life through Hebrews 13:8 — the same Christ who wept for Jerusalem and prayed for Peter still feels and pleads for each believer now.

Scripture referenced

- **Heb. 7:24-25** -- Permanent priesthood; He always lives to intercede — the chapter's anchor text.
- **Isa. 53:12** -- He bore sin and made intercession for the transgressors, linking cross and prayer.
- **Luke 22:32, 41** -- Jesus prayed for Peter personally and knelt/fell in Gethsemane's agony.
- **Rom. 8:34** -- Christ at God's right hand interceding for us.
- **Heb. 4:15-16** -- He sympathizes with our weakness, so we approach the throne of grace with confidence.
- **Ps. 110:1** -- The Father invites the Son to sit at His right hand — basis for the enthronement.